

FALL 2009

# Accent

AN AVILA UNIVERSITY  
PUBLICATION

## Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75

*"Avila taught me that I can overcome obstacles and challenges and never take 'no' for an answer."*



*Beyond extending the visibility of the university, my goal is to learn more about our alumni and the pivotal roles our graduates play not only in Kansas City but also throughout the world.*

An American poet once said we should come home from adventure, peril and discoveries with new experience and character. That is what my recent homecoming feels like to me. After nearly 25 years, in many ways I feel like I am the same student, walking the same passageways, seeing the same buildings. However, there have been changes—taller trees, different faces, new fountains and a myriad of activity.

As Avila's Chief Marketing & Communications Officer, I am honored to be a part of the Avila community in an entirely new capacity. My association with Avila actually goes back to my high school days at St. Teresa's Academy when my chemistry teacher asked me to transport chemistry equipment from Avila since I lived near the campus. Avila's chemistry professor at the time was always happy to oblige. On more than one occasion, my father inquired whether we were transporting anything likely to blow up. Fortunately, that was never the case.

After graduating from St. Teresa's, I attended Avila and pursued a degree in marketing and English. The friends I made and the experience I gained in student groups and as editor of the student newspaper have carried me through my professional and personal life. Even after graduation, I remained engaged with the university by serving on the alumni board and the board of counselors. All of these experiences helped prepare me for my career in marketing and public relations.

My professional adventures began when I worked for many years in the high-energy, hard-charging environment of a large, dynamic advertising agency. While there, I gained experience in creating brands such as Wal-Mart, McDonald's and Blockbuster. In addition to the adventures associated with the fast-paced advertising community, I discovered both the rewards and the perils associated with corporate America.

Initially, it was the tools and relationships I developed at Avila which defined my character and allowed me to meet the challenges of these different organizations. Over time, I grew with these new experiences and gained knowledge at these organizations that I was able to integrate with my Avila background. Together, the adventures I have known, the discoveries I have found and the perils I have faced have given me the perspective and tools needed to help take Avila to the next step in its evolution.

As with all long-term organizations, I am standing on the shoulders of giants. What others before me have done is incredible. I only hope that by standing on these shoulders I can help prepare Avila for the future. One way forward, as directed by the Board of Trustees and Avila's president, is through a strategic communications and marketing plan to help promote the university's brand and increase community awareness. No longer should Avila be the "best kept secret" in town.

Beyond extending the visibility of the university, my goal is to learn more about our alumni and the pivotal roles our graduates play not only in Kansas City but also throughout the world. While many Avila grads update us on their activities, others remain a mystery. There are so many great stories to tell, and we want to know them all. As the Accent cover story describes, a local dairy farm that supplies high quality milk products to Kansas City area residents is owned and operated by an Avila alumnus, Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75.

Barbara's story is just one example of how Avila graduates impact the community every day. We are sure many other alums have an impact on the local, regional or national community and we would love to hear your story. Please write or e-mail us with details about what you or other Avila alums are doing. As members of the Avila community, we all work together to transform the world into a better place.

If you would like to e-mail me personally, my e-mail address is [Linda.Shaffer@Avila.edu](mailto:Linda.Shaffer@Avila.edu). I look forward to working as part of the Avila team in the coming years to share the successes of the university, its alumni, staff and students.

Cordially,  
*Linda M Shaffer*

Linda Morris Shaffer '86  
Chief Marketing & Communications Officer

# Accent

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*Accent is published twice yearly  
by the Office of Marketing &  
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*Opinions expressed in Accent are  
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## ON THE Cover

Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75 enjoys a bottle  
of Shatto milk from her family farm.

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## Avila international students cheer on Wizards

**A**vila University international students teamed up with Cerner Corporation mentors to cheer on the Kansas City Wizards and their own Dom the Eagle.

Avila students from the countries of Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica, China, Taiwan and Cameroon loaded a bus to see the Wizards take on Red Bull New York, courtesy of Cerner's mentorship program. Cerner provided tickets, and students received Jimmy Conrad bobble heads and thundersticks at the game.

"The game was shown on ESPN 2, and there was a Stealth Bomber flyover to start the game," said Eugene Peoples, international student services coordinator. "The students had a great time, and the Wizards won 1-0 on a penalty kick."

While the Wizards took home the win, they weren't the only competitors on the field. During halftime, local high school and college mascots competed in a Mascot Challenge. Avila's Dom the Eagle tied 5-5 in the challenge, fitting for a sport that allows ties.

"The students had a great time and the game was very competitive," Peoples said. "Plus, we were in a suite which contributed to a much more casual atmosphere."

This is the third event that Cerner mentors have sponsored. The partnership began when Cathy Mueller, Avila University Board of Trustee member and Vice President of Customer Service at Cerner, teamed up with Peoples to create the Avila Cerner Friendship Program. Through the program, mentors from Cerner are paired with international students to help them acclimate to the Kansas City community and introduce them to American corporate culture.

"The partnership is important because it allows a chance for our students to get off campus and see another part of Kansas City," Peoples said. "It provides a special and unique opportunity for our students to interact with other students from various cultures." 🇺🇸

## Students star in Avila CSI

**A**vila University's Whitfield Center looked like a set of C.S.I. as mock crime scenes filled the room, giving students hands-on experience as amateur criminologists.

Deborah Johnson, ABD, Ph.D., criminologist, and assistant professor of sociology at Avila, created 11 mock crime scenes along with help from Officer Darrick Bruns, Instructor of Law Enforcement and CSI classes at the Northland Career Center. Together, the duo laid out scenes involving fake guns, fake blood, bullets, bullet casings, crime scene tape and mannequins. Scenes involving single murders, multiple murders and suicides were on display.

"Today we went to a crime scene, gathered all the evidence and took photographs," said sophomore Jamie LeMaster. "I worked on the drug scene. It had two pill bottles, beer cans, syringes, but no dead body."

Avila students teamed up with high schoolers from the Northland Career Center to solve the crimes. The students were divided into groups and each assigned a select crime scene. Students had the opportunity to bag-and-tag evidence to be processed later. Avila University faculty, staff and students were invited to come view the crime scenes but, of course, were not allowed to tamper with any evidence.

Johnson said she was very pleased with the support from faculty, staff and the administration, but the important thing was that the students did a great job and had a great time doing it.

"It was a really eye-opening experience for me, especially since I'm going into the crime scene investigation field," LeMaster said. "I'm looking forward to more events like this in the fall." 🇺🇸



# Avila University spotted at Relay for Life

**A**vila University recently sponsored a team for Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising event.

Avila students, staff, alumni, family members and cancer survivors took turns walking from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. at Rockhurst High School and helped raise \$78,000 to support the fight against cancer.

"This overnight event empowers everyone to help fight cancer by raising money and awareness," said Jason Baldwin, director of student life. "The atmosphere was fun, empowering and emotional."

The Avila team showed its spirit by decorating its campsite with a 101 Dalmatians theme, complete with a banner for participants to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives to cancer. Participants were encouraged to write their "101 reasons to spot out cancer."

"I wanted to experience what others were going through, and I was hoping I could talk to others who have gone through a loss like I have recently," said Avila University Web Designer Nicole Burkhardt. "My grandmother was diagnosed with kidney cancer in March and died in May. It was very hard watching the pain my grandma suffered, and there wasn't anything to cure her cancer. Hopefully, with enough rallies and donations, some day soon they will find a cure for cancer."

With the overall race theme celebrating the 80s, Avila's team was decked out in legwarmers, cutoff shirts, scrunchies, leggings and wild 80s hair. As part of the Relay for Life competition, Baldwin participated in the Miss Relay Contest. For the contest, male participants dressed up as women and went into the campsites and local businesses to collect donations. Baldwin dressed as Cruella De Vil, complete with red dress, black feather boa and the infamous black and white hair.

"I dressed up as Cruella De Vil as part of a competition to see who could raise the

most money and be crowned King/Queen of Relay," Baldwin said. "Although I didn't win the competition, I raised more money for cancer research and had fun at the same time."

While the event was fun and exciting, there was also a somber mood of remembrance for those who lost their battles with cancer. During the night, participants took part in a luminary ceremony. Participants could purchase a luminary with their loved one's name on it. The luminaries were all set on the edge of the track.

"They shut off the stadium lights so it was pitch dark and everyone walked a lap for their loved ones," Burkhardt said. "I only made it to my grandma's luminary. It was a very touching way for me to remember my grandma."

Baldwin said that a big 'thank you' goes out to the Avila University community, family and friends for their support of the Avila University team with donations and prayers.

"We greatly appreciate the prayers, donations and support of the Avila University community," Baldwin said. "By participating, we honored cancer survivors, paid tribute to the lives we've lost to the disease and raised money to help fight cancer right here in our community."

Team members included Avila University staff members Baldwin, cancer survivor Susan Wulff from counseling services, Assistant Residence Life Coordinator Mindy Kinnaman and Web Designer Nicole Burkhardt. Avila students included Mandy Moore, Lauren Couch, Bernadette Weeks, David Fuller, Shawna Downing and Hillary Kerschbaum. Avila family member and friends included Lisa Baldwin, Silas Baldwin, Sage Baldwin, Tami Kiefer, Chelsea Keifer, Mark Wulff, Branden Burkhardt, Katelyn Burkhardt, Megan Burkhardt and Megan Roberts. 🐾



Photos from top: Avila's Relay for Life team; cancer survivor Susan Wulff, Assistant Residence Life Coordinator Mindy Kinnaman and Director of Student Life Jason F. Baldwin dressed as Cruella De Vil.

## New dean of education named



Top: Dean of the School of Education Mike McKinne, Ed.D. Bottom: Mike with his daughter Macy Margaret.

**M**ike McKinne, Ed.D., has joined Avila's family as the new Dean of the School of Education. Coming to Avila after teaching education at Graceland University for seven years, McKinne is no stranger to higher education that is grounded in strong moral values.

"Avila was a good fit for me because of my commitment to service, student success and faculty empowerment," McKinne said. "As Dean of the School of Education, I'm excited to be working with stellar faculty, staff and students."

McKinne, of Lee's Summit, said he chose to pursue the field of higher education because he wants to make a difference in others' lives. He said that leadership, learning and taking action have carried him throughout his career.

"I want my students to walk away from class with a sense of empowerment, confidence and a love for learning," McKinne said.

Building on his own empowerment, McKinne recently attended a seminar hosted by Tony Robbins, a motivational speaker who has served as an advisor to presidents, political leaders, advocates for humanity, CEOs of multinational corporations, psychologists, peak performance athletes, world-class entertainers, teachers and parents. As part of the seminar, McKinne participated in a fire walk, walking over 15 feet of burning coals.

"Fire walking is a metaphor: the mindset, if I can walk on fire without burning my feet, then I can do anything," McKinne said. "It was a transformative experience. I believe that I can and will achieve success by applying myself and working with others. I frame it this way: seven years ago I was teaching 5th grade. Since then, I've completed a Doctorate from Mizzou and become a Dean before the age of 40."

When he's not in the classroom or walking over fire, McKinne enjoys reading and collecting books. He also stays busy with his wife Christi and two daughters, Macy Margaret, 4, and Marli Cate, 3 months. 🐾

## Nursing dean enhances health care curriculum



**S**usan H. Fetsch, R.N., Ph.D., Dean of Avila's School of Nursing was looking for a way to offer students in her program courses in the areas of critical care, emergency nursing and oncology. Feedback from local nursing executives and graduating seniors indicated that instruction in those areas would be of great benefit to Avila students. However, many schools—especially small private schools—cannot afford to pull faculty from their regular workloads to develop and teach these sub-specialized courses.

Dr. Fetsch recently completed her last year as a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Fellow, a leadership development program designed to prepare a select cadre of registered nurses (R.N.s) who are in senior executive positions for influential roles in shaping the U.S. health

care system of the future. Making use of the competencies from the Fellows program, she set out to create a solution.

Her initial project used a design to share faculty experts between academic institutions. Each of four schools involved would offer one of the sub-specialty courses, and then students would cross-enroll in the courses. Unfortunately, the schools that initially signed on were unable to commit to offering the elective. Moving past an initial sense of discouragement, Dr. Fetsch modified the project, finding success in a different approach.

She contacted the nurse executives at several area health care facilities about using staff experts as faculty. The nurse executives embraced the idea, and the project took on new life. Carondelet Health—also sponsored by the Sisters of St.

(Continues on p. 30)



## Avila professor receives peace award

**A**vila University Dean of the School of Professional Studies and Associate Professor of Communication Steve Iliff, Ph.D., recently received the Charles E. Bebb Peace Award from PeaceWorks Kansas City.

Iliff has been teaching peace studies since 1996 in Avila's Advantage and traditional course formats. Iliff was also instrumental in bringing an annually-awarded \$1,000 PeaceWorks scholarship to Avila University.

"I was definitely surprised," Iliff said about receiving the award. "My thought was, 'What am I doing getting that award?'"

PeaceWorks first called Iliff's wife, Susan Bettis Smith, to confirm that Iliff would be at the annual meeting.

"I figured she must have heard something wrong," Iliff said with a grin. "Maybe they wanted me to announce

the award or wanted suggestions from me on who should be awarded."

The committee, however, was not mistaken. Iliff was presented the peace award because of his position on the regional board of American Friends Service Committee, his dedication to peace studies and his work to bring the PeaceWorks scholarship to Avila's campus.

"As someone who teaches Peace Studies with him, I know what a strong belief and long-term commitment he has to peace," said Carole Coburn, Ph.D., professor in religious studies and women's studies. "Besides teaching peace studies and other related courses, he has been active with the AFSC organization for years, and he is well known in the Kansas City metropolitan area for his peace work in the community. The students appreciate Steve's passion in the classroom and his depth of knowledge

on the topic."

Iliff said that what meant most to him was that his wife and son, Matt Smith, were present to see him receive the award.

"A father doesn't always get to hear from his son the words 'Dad, I'm proud of you.'"

PeaceWorks Kansas City began in 1982 as the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Committee of the Kansas City Interfaith Peace Alliance and later became the Kansas City Nuclear Weapons Freeze Coalition, the metropolitan area's leading voice against the nuclear arms race. The organization evolved into PeaceWorks Kansas City in 1996, with a commitment to educate themselves and leaders on the need for less government spending on weapons. 🌱



## Lizards, crabs and beach wolves, oh my! Avila students study in the Bahamas

Professor of Sociology David Wissmann, Ph.D., explains the class project to students in San Salvador, Bahamas.

**T**his May, Avila students traveled to San Salvador, Bahamas to study the culture and nature of the island. Armed with sunscreen and bug spray, the students spent eight days collecting data, enjoying the beach, chasing animals and learning to appreciate another culture.

Taking part in the course were 29 Avila students from 17 different degree programs. These students, from 20 different hometowns, came together for the chance to study internationally at the Gerace Research Centre on the island of San Salvador.

Led by Avila Professor of Biology Robert Powell, Ph.D. and Professor of Sociology David Wissmann, Ph.D., the students were required to collect data for two projects – one centered on terrestrial life and one focused on marine life. Along with their projects, the students attended class and took part in cultural activities.

While in San Salvador, the Avila students visited the Church of the

God of Prophecy for Sunday service, with some students attending church for the first time. Lively music and inspirational messages touched many of the students. The whole congregation also gave birthday girl, junior Samantha Soubane, of Lenexa, Kan., a special birthday song and hugs.

"The Prophecy Church gave me an enlightening experience," said senior Sean Wattenbarger, of Kansas City. "We were given the most excellent, soul-filled blessing. The man poured his soul into our lives with tears and pure heart. I have to say it brought tears to my eyes."

The class made sure to visit the "big" town of Cockburn, consisting of three buildings. Even with limited shopping, the students still managed to bring home souvenirs including purses, t-shirts, dresses and more. During their trip into town, the class also stopped at the Christopher Columbus memorial.

"The students and I visited "down-town" Cockburn," Wissmann joked. "This included one tourist shop, a small market and a stand where a woman was making purses and baskets from palm leaves. Finally, the group stopped at the Columbus monument – where most scholars have concluded was the first landing of European explorers in the New World."

In their free evening time, students chased the nocturnal wildlife, enjoyed the beach by making a bonfire and were invited to a local fish fry. Students enjoyed eating fried conch and dancing to the island music.

"On Saturday we went to a fish fry," said freshman Erin Schultz, of Omaha, Neb. "It was such an awesome experience. It was right off the beach, and we had a pier we could eat our conch fritters on. They were delicious, and we got six for a dollar – that's a better deal than McDonald's dollar menu! We got to dance

the night away with our friends and islanders."

Taking part in a unique San Salvador experience, the students worked on an archeological dig with Jeffrey Blick, Ph.D., of Georgia College and State University. Along with four of Blick's students, Avila's students sifted through dirt, looking for a glimpse into history.

"Our students visited the Lucayan archaeological site with students from Georgia," Wissmann said. "This site is dated at 950 AD and was the home of the native people of the Bahamas. We found literally hundreds of artifacts from the dig. These included pieces of conch, vertebrae from turtles and fish, charcoal remains and pieces of pottery."

When not on rotation at the dig site, students went on a boat ride that took them to snorkel at an off-shore reef, two bird nesting islands and Green Cay, home of most of the world's population of San Salvador iguanas. Powell, resident lizard expert, was in his element.

"This is a highly endangered species of rock iguana, a group of species found only in the West Indies," Powell said. "I had not seen this species except in photos, so I enjoyed it—even if the iguanas have become habituated to humans who feed them. That's against the law, since it constitutes 'harassment' of a protected species. We obeyed the law, even if the iguanas seemed disappointed."

Although the students enjoyed the culture of the island, their primary focus on the trip was completing their two research projects. The class was divided into five teams with each team completing one ma-

rine and one terrestrial project. The groups collected data while in the Bahamas and presented one project to the class while there. Their projects manifested into a full research paper which was completed this summer. Projects presented in the Bahamas included size and location of cushion starfish, evading strategies of anoles, number of land crabs during different times of day, groupings of ground doves and behaviors of anoles. Research paper projects included gecko behavior, biodiversity of tide pools, biodiversity on natural and artificial environments and number and location of damselfish and fan corals.

"My group (Beth, Jania, and Casey) set up our marine project comparing natural and artificial settings in the reef, about 20-30 meters off the shore at low tide," said junior Jen Lee, of Eureka, Kan. "It was a lot of work to get started because we needed to mark four different 2x2 meter areas with string and rocks to hold down the corners on the ocean floor. All the work was worth it though because it was simple to observe and count the specimens. The only way to record all the numbers while in the water was to use a 'No Trespassing' sign and a wax pencil."

"In my group, we researched fan coral and their dispersal in the fringe reef," said junior Crystal Stanzel, of Leawood, Kan. "At night we started our terrestrial project on crabs to see when they are the most active."

Students said that the experience was extraordinary, but what made the trip even more exciting was that family and friends back home could follow the students on their journey.



Avila students participating in the university's study abroad program in San Salvador pose for a group photo.

Avila created a website just for the course—complete with daily uploaded photos and real-time blogs from each student. You can still view the website at [www.avila.edu/travel/bahamas](http://www.avila.edu/travel/bahamas).

As students walked off the plane at KCI, they were filled with a mixture of relief to be home and sadness for leaving such a beautiful island. Students who had not known one another previous to the trip exchanged phone numbers and good-bye hugs, knowing they will see each other in the fall.

"Being on this wonderful trip gave me a lot that I cannot express or imagine," said junior Meshal (Mike) Algoblan of Saudi Arabia. "I made plenty of friends, met people from different cultures and enjoyed doing the two projects with my team. I felt San Salvador was my home and my family for the week. I would like to express my great appreciation and thanks to Dr. Wissmann and Dr. Powell for giving us such a great cultural and nature experience that I've never had. To all my amazing classmates, whom I'm pretty sure enjoyed the experience as much as I did, I'm looking forward for another experience like this next year." 🐢



Left: Students collaborate on their class assignment. Right: Professor of Biology Robert Powell, Ph.D., outlines the San Salvador project to students sitting on the beach.





Vice President for Advancement Greg Reichert joins Margot Thornhill and Board of Trustee Joe Fahey.



S. Margaret Reinhart's family from left: Pat, Molle, Janna and Corky Stueve.

## Where the Wild Things Are!

Thornhill Art Gallery Director Marci Alyward poses with "Zebraphone," one of the art pieces that is part of the Thornhill Art Gallery's opening exhibit, "The Unusual Dreams of Juniper and TJ Tangpuz."



The visual arts have a new home at Avila. On June 29, the University held a sneak preview for the new Thornhill Art Gallery and the Sister Margaret Reinhart Courtyard. Part of the School of Visual and Communication Arts, the facility is a versatile art and teaching space which emphasizes access for the entire Avila community.

The Thornhill Gallery is named in honor of the family of Edward Thornhill, his wife Mary Agnes and their children Margot, Mary Ellen, Tom, Mark and Jill. The Thornhill family has a long history of support for the University, starting with Mr. Thornhill's service on the Avila Board of Counselors in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Daughter Margot served as Avila's Director of Admission and later managed the University's archives as a volunteer. In the early 1980s, the family established the Edward Thornhill Endowed Scholarship to assist students in attending the University.

The S. Margaret Reinhart Courtyard is named in honor of the former chair of Avila's art department. S. Margaret served the Avila community from 1945 to 1997, moving her department from St. Teresa's to the new college campus in 1960. The recognition of Sister's career was made possible by the generous support of her family: Corky and (niece) Molle Stueve '55; (great nephew) Pat and Janna Stueve '90. 🐾



The Thornhill family greets the opening-reception crowd with "Dandelion." From left to right: Jill Thornhill, Maria Donigan, Mark Thornhill, Margot Thornhill, Tom Thornhill, Mary Ellen Dick, and David Dick.



Judy Budde '77 and her husband Jim reminisce with S. Olive Louise.



S. Olive Louise joins Bonita Hanson and Teresa Fischer, '83 in a chorus of "Danny Boy."



The Avila community gathered at the Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza to recognize S. Olive Louise and her 57 years of service.



S. Olive Louise greets former student Teresa Fischer, '83 as her community celebration kicked off on June 3.

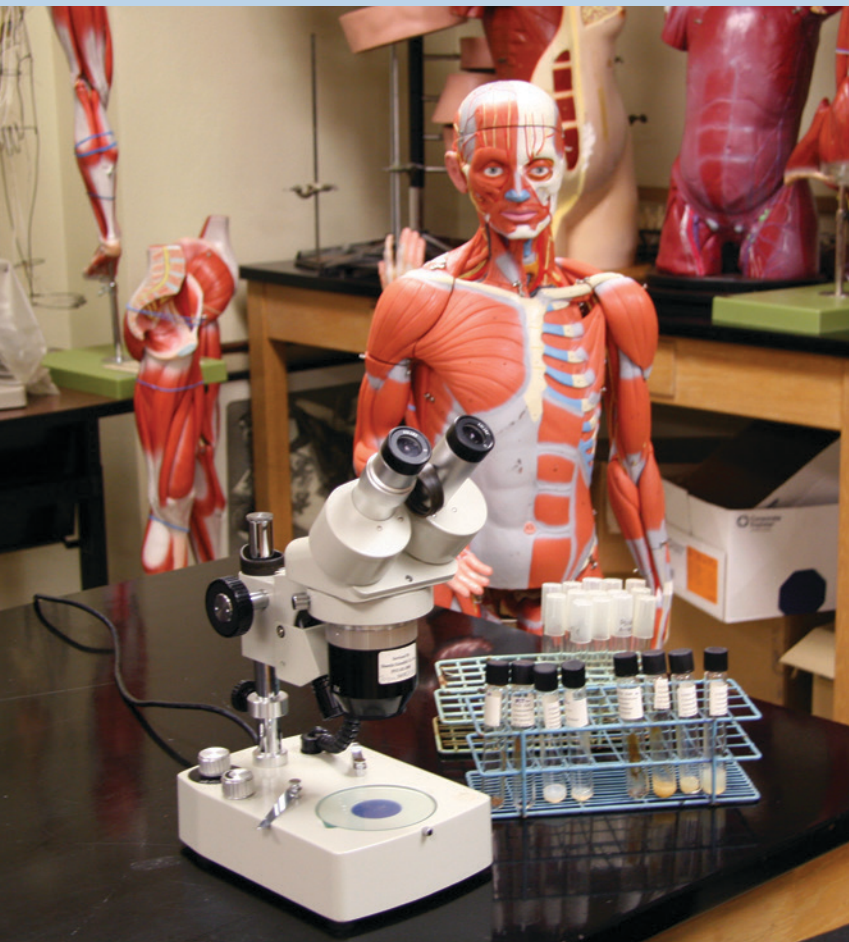
## Community celebration honors Sister Olive Louise Dallavis

**M**emories and music filled the air on a beautiful spring night as the Avila community recognized the career of Sister Olive Louise Dallavis. Having spent 57 years serving the College of St. Teresa and Avila University, S. Olive Louise received a collective, heartfelt thank you on June 3.

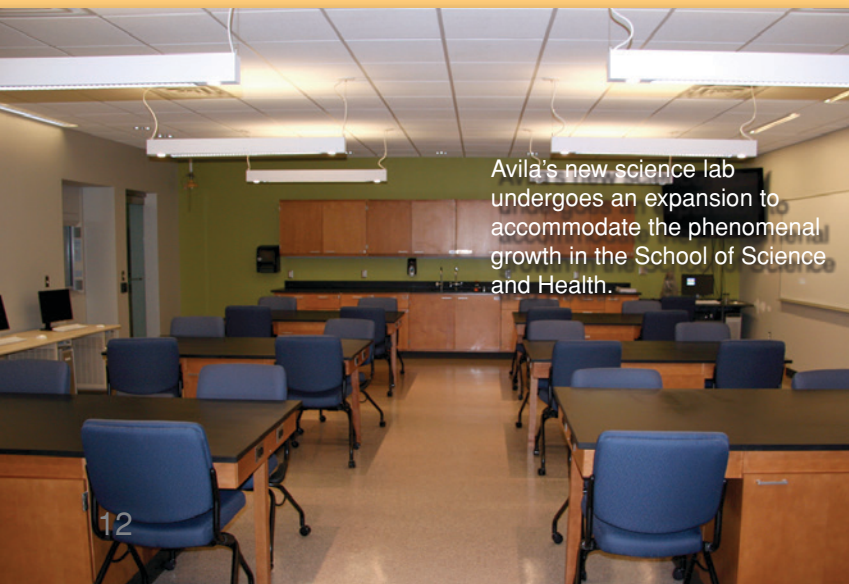
The evening featured a musical program by Teresa Fischer, '83 and Bonita Hanson, both former music students of S. Olive Louise, and there were few dry eyes in the house when Sister joined in for a couple of choruses of "Danny Boy." In addition, S. Ruth Stuckel, Avila President Ron Slepitz and former University trustees Vita Goppert and Don Alexander offered their congratulations and thanks.

A crowd of more than 250 alumni, friends, faculty and staff gathered at the Jeanne Hamilton Olofson Plaza, where Sister greeted every person with a smile and a warm word. When the evening was over, she remarked, "I felt like a movie star."

Please visit Avila's Web site at [www.avila.edu/give/srolivecelebration.asp](http://www.avila.edu/give/srolivecelebration.asp) to view the video tribute to S. Olive Louise. 📺



**The University's science labs are located in O'Reilly Hall, Avila's original classroom building. Cosmetic renovations were made to the O'Reilly labs in 2000, but safety and space issues have made extensive renovations imperative in the primary biology facility. In its present state, the lab was unable to meet the University's needs for general education courses, major courses and student research.**



Avila's new science lab undergoes an expansion to accommodate the phenomenal growth in the School of Science and Health.

## The evolution of Avila's science lab

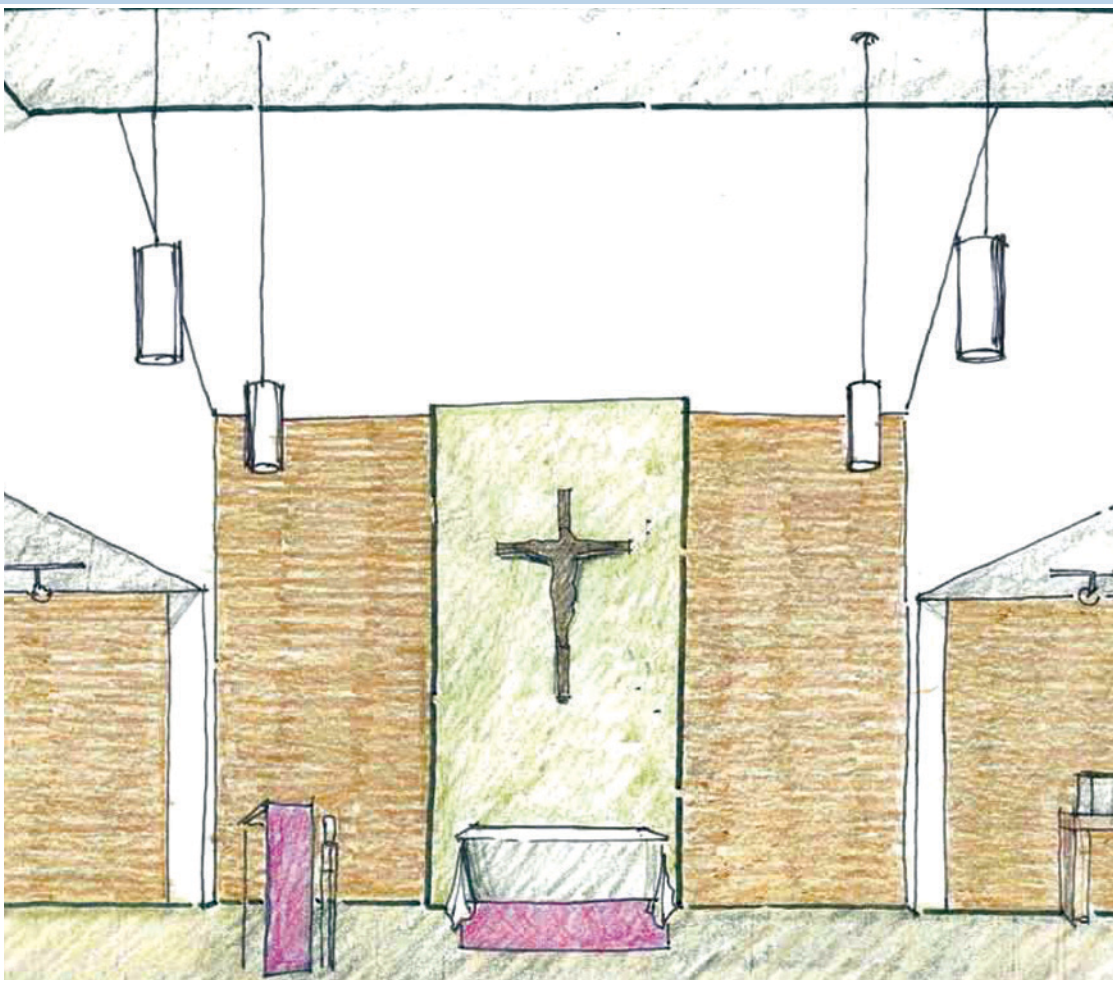
**D**uring a University-wide planning process, Avila identified increased enrollment in the School of Science and Health (SSH) as one of its guiding strategies for the next ten years. Since that time, the following changes have occurred:

- a new Environmental Science emphasis has been added to the biology major
- Dr. Karin Gastreich, a specialist in animal behavior and plant/animal interactions, has joined the Biology faculty
- the number of Avila graduates enrolling in graduate and professional programs has increased dramatically
- as a result, science programs have become one of the University's most significant growth areas:
  - student enrollments in core biology classes have grown by 123 percent since 2004
  - student enrollments in core chemistry classes have grown by 30 percent since 2004
  - enrollment in the Biology, Pre-Health, and Sport Science majors have grown 52 percent since 2004.

To accommodate this growth, Avila has expanded and renovated O'Reilly 109, a 960-square-foot room, which had a capacity of only 16 students. With growth expected to continue in these sciences, the lab was inadequate. The renovation will benefit Avila's students in several ways:

- increase square footage by nearly 46 percent to 1,400 square feet
- increase student capacity by 50 percent to 24 students
- create a biology-specific student research area
- address equipment needs
  - new lab work stations
  - new computer work stations
- address safety needs
  - 40-year-old plumbing/HVAC systems
  - new safety ventilation
  - chemical-resistant flooring
  - Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance.

Now completed, O'Reilly 109 houses both a state-of-the-art teaching facility and a dedicated undergraduate research area. While the most immediate beneficiaries of the project will be Avila University students, faculty and staff, the project will benefit the entire Kansas City area by helping prepare professionals for careers in the health sciences. 🏠




Above is an artist's rendering of the future Orscheln Chapel. Photos to the right show work beginning on the chapel, its first upgrade since opening in 1967.

## Avila to renovate Orscheln Chapel

Many higher education institutions are able to provide subject matter and instruction of high academic caliber. An Avila University education is distinguished by its emphasis on faith and spirituality as integral to teaching, learning and living. As a Catholic University, Avila provides an environment that fosters spiritual growth. By promoting opportunities for reflection, attentiveness and action, Avila encourages faculty, students and staff to see their work as part of a larger effort to serve the common good.

Having a physical place set aside for reflection and meditation encourages engagement in those conversations. Avila's Orscheln Memorial Chapel provides a sacred space that supports a sense of higher purpose for our quest for knowledge and learning.

Sadly, the chapel has not been upgraded since its opening in 1967 and showed significant signs of wear. Carpet, furnishings and paint were all original installations and in serious disrepair. The state of the chapel was such that the room had become a distraction rather than serving as a haven for spiritual reflection. Tears in the carpet and broken kneelers hampered our liturgical celebrations and were not fitting for a space where the Eucharist is celebrated and reserved.

Avila is finalizing the renovation to the space to restore it to a place of beauty and functionality and expects the work to be completed by Homecoming 2009. Simple upgrades will dramatically change the atmosphere and viability of the space. Work includes replacing the carpet and seating and installing new light fixtures. We will also install new accent façades over the brick walls that will allow us to highlight statues of the Holy Family and our patron saint, Teresa of Avila, which were carved by Sr. Joan Clish, CSJ, in the 1960s. A similar façade on the wall behind the sanctuary will feature a new hand-carved crucifix imported from Italy, which will provide a focal point for individual prayer. The new seating, which will be flexible in nature rather than fixed pews, will allow the chapel to host other prayer services and musical performances appropriate to a sacred space. 

There is still time to help with the project. If you are interested in supporting the chapel renovation, contact the Office of Advancement at 816-501-3727.



## Blessings Exhibit leaves lasting impression on Kansas City

From left: Rabbi Abie Ingber, Rabbi Alan Cohen, Most Rev. Robert W. Finn, D.D., Dr. James Buchanan and Avila President Ron Slepitz stand in front of the Blessings exhibit.

**A**claimed for bringing together Christians and Jews, the exhibit "A Blessing to One Another: Pope John Paul II and the Jewish People" brought together the Kansas City community through touching testimonials, moving photographs and a story of unwavering friendship. The exhibit run lasted only 51 days, but the message of compassion will last a lifetime.

"With the exhibit closed, I want to express my deep appreciation to those benefactors who enabled Avila University to provide this powerful story of a world-changing friendship to the people of Kansas City," said Avila University President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D. "The story of John Paul II and his relationship with the Jewish people is one that is inspiring and especially relevant at this time. For all who witnessed it, you share in this legacy to promote understanding and a commitment to peace."

The exhibit opened its doors to nearly 24,000 people in the community, including 94 group tours and school field trips. While most visitors came from the Midwest, individuals from 26 states and 11 countries were among the attendees. The exhibit also sent over 6,000 handwritten prayers from Kansas City to the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

"Union Station is proud that Avila University brought this moving educational experience to our site," said George M. Guastello, II., president and CEO of Union Station Kansas City, Inc. "The exhibit was a great addition to our other programming, exceeding all expectations and was very effective in bringing together so many different people in the Kansas City region. We look forward to working with the university on other partnerships in the future."

The story of Pope John Paul II, his lifelong friendship with Jerzy Kluger, and his relationship with the Jewish people is inspiring and extremely relevant. Those who witnessed it gained a stronger understanding of interfaith dialogue and what the process can do to bring about peace in our world.

Unique to the exhibit's stay in Kansas City, Avila hosted multiple events that added to the overall experience and helped advance interfaith relations as inspired by Pope John Paul II. Events, which were open to the public, included Avila's Truman Lecture Series featuring exhibit co-creator Dr. James Buchanan; Interfaith Dialogue Community Day featuring Rabbi James Rudin and Father Dennis McManus, both of whom worked closely with




Pope John Paul II; Educators Workshop on the Holocaust for high school and middle school teachers; and the Fran Sternberg Lecture on Interwar Polish Jewry: In Search of a Future. Avila also hosted an Interfaith Dialogue Clergy Day with over 90 Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim clergy participating.

Also during the exhibit's run, the corresponding play "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" was held at City Center Stage at Union Station. The play staged a total of thirteen shows, with five being sold out performances. Avila University and Theatre for Young America co-produced the play based on the writings of children who passed through the Terezin concentration camp in World War II.

The exhibit and additional programming would not have been possible without the support of Avila's community partners, including the Jewish Community Relations Bureau/American Jewish Committee, Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City, Midwest Center for Holocaust Education, Catholic Diocese of Kansas City ~ St. Joseph, Conception Abbey, Harry S. Truman Library & Museum, J. M. Fahey Construction Co., Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Time-Warner Cable.

Avila University and its community partners made the Kansas City exhibit run a success. Working together they have kept Pope John Paul II's vision of peace through understanding at the forefront of the community's thoughts and dialogue.

To follow the exhibit as it tours the country, visit [www.blessingsexhibit.org](http://www.blessingsexhibit.org). 

## Touched, Humbled, Inspired: Voices from the Exhibit

"A wonderfully humbling and inspirational exhibit." — *Linda, Lee's Summit*

"This exhibit is a good reminder and a great symbol of love and brotherhood. Seeing this makes an impression on the heart that must be pondered." — *Diane, Kansas City*

"Unbelievable! One must see to believe. Thank you for opening our eyes to his mercy." — *Ima, Liberty*

"A fitting tribute to the true saint of our time who taught us how to cross the threshold of hope by his holy example...well done and thank you for this wonderful exhibit." — *Peter, New Jersey*



From left: Rabbi Alan Cohen and Most Rev. Robert W. Finn, D.D., look at the prayer wall.



Notre Dame de Sion High School students who toured the Blessings exhibit pose for a photo.



Tom and Jeanne '92, '94 Olofson, honorary chairpersons, pose with president emerita S. Olive Louise Dallavis and Avila University President Ron Slepitz, Ph.D., and his wife, Suzanne.

**O**n March 7, 2009, Avila University celebrated the 33rd Annual Steer Dinner at the Sheraton Overland Park Hotel. First held in 1977, the Steer Dinner is one of the longest-running charity auctions in Kansas City. Over \$345,000 was raised to benefit student scholarships.

The honorary chairs for this year's event were Tom and Jeanne '92, '94 Olofson. Nearly 400 guests enjoyed a delicious "steer" steak dinner, a lively auction courtesy of Shane Smith and dancing to the sounds of Kokomo.

# Blessings Flow



Honorary Chairpersons Tom and Jeanne '92, '94 Olofson with Brenda and Joel Pelofsky, Event Chairpersons.



S. Olive Louise Dallavis, Avila president emerita, captivates the crowd while Master of Ceremonies John Holt looks on. This is the last Steer Dinner before S. Olive retires this summer.



Patricia Leathers '74 makes her bid on a trip to Ireland.



S. Olive Louise Dallavis and Jeanne Olofson '92, '94 share a quiet moment during the event.



Guests dance to the sounds of Kokomo.



Geri Frantze shows her surprise at winning the "heads and tails" contest. Her prize was a beautiful amethyst and diamond ring from Balano Jewelry.



Ron Slepitza, Ph.D., and wife Suzanne with Board of Trustees member Ken Hager and wife Marilyn.



An ice sculpture of "Jimmy C", the prize winning steer who inspired the first Steer Dinner, toasts S. Olive Louise.



The Avila University Singers, under the direction of Amity Bryson, Ph.D., serenade the guests.



President Slepitza paid tribute to two great Avila friends and benefactors who passed away this year: Jack Kitchin and Mary Beth Myers.

# On the Green Acres of Osborn



Swaying on the porch swing, watching cows roam the pasture, drinking ice-cold root beer milk straight from the glass bottle. Although the land has been in the family since the late 1800s, this scene can still be seen today at the Shatto family farm, just north of Kansas City in Osborn, Mo.

Along with her husband Leroy, Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75 turned the family farm into the "freshest milk in town," with milk from the cow to the store in as little as 12 hours. The first thing you notice about Shatto when you meet her are her bright eyes and ready smile. The second is her energy and enthusiasm. This Avila nursing major has made a lasting impression on the Kansas City community through her personal attention and caring affection.

In the mid 1990s, the Shattos bought the family farm from Barbara's father Ivan Cox, but the farming business wasn't smooth. Milk prices were bad, and the 100-year-old dairy farm was in trouble. It was time to decide: sell the farm or rethink the business.

"We knew we needed to try something different," Shatto said. "We had no small business experience, and I was scared to death, but we knew we wanted to sell directly from the farm to the stores."

Shatto did just that. In 2003, Shatto Milk Company was born, with milk being delivered to fewer than ten stores in the Kansas City area.

Since then, the business has grown to more than 300 cattle, and Shatto milk is found in over 60 stores in the Kansas City community.

Shatto Milk Company is committed to providing the Kansas City community "milk at its finest." Shatto milk comes from cows not treated with growth hormones and only comes from cows owned by Barbara and Leroy.

"We use washcloths to clean the cows udders, so no paper towels end up in landfills," Shatto said. "We also don't use plastic bottles to package our milk. Instead, we use reusable, old-fashioned glass bottles."

The packaging used by Shatto Milk Company has peaked the interest of many in the community. At Shatto Milk Company, milk is bottled in glass bottles for multiple reasons. First, the glass bottle tends to keep milk colder and colder milk is more desirable. Second, glass bottles are environmentally friendly. Shatto glass bottles can be washed and reused as many times as they are returned. Third, unlike paper cartons or plastic, glass imparts no foreign odor or flavor. Fourth, glass bottles

Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75 poses in front of the Country Store on the family farm.



Lucie (McCallum) Black, Barbara (Cox) Shatto and Marian (Kelly) Monnig, all members of the class of '75, joined Avila President Ron Slepitzka at a recent Advancing Avila reception.



are most notable in history for containing farm fresh milk from the local family farm, and that is exactly what you are getting from Shatto.

Also found on the farm is the Country Store with everything from farm-fresh milk to milk soap to cow pie candy. At the store, visitors can sample Shatto Milk products and view the bottling plant through two large viewing windows. Shatto said that she wanted to open the store for fun, but it's turned into a gathering place for the community. She has had Olympic gold-medalist swimmers stop by, along with hundreds of neighbors down the road.

"We really enjoy the people and our community," Shatto said. "Our lives are enriched by the connections that we've made. Our neighbors stop by the store, and we have over 60,000 visitors a year."

In addition to bringing the community to the farm, the Shatto family brings the farm to the community through partnerships and philanthropy. Many local businesses such as The Roasterie Coffee Company, Sheridan's Frozen Custard and local chocolatier "The Sweet Guy"

use the Shatto family of products in their decadent treats. The Shatto family is also committed to the community in other ways as they are involved with the Ronald McDonald House, Susan G. Komen Race for a Cure as well as with more than 30 other local non-profit organizations.

Shatto Milk Company has also reached out to the global community, teaching basic agriculture techniques to visitors from other countries. In 2007, the Small Business Administration awarded the Missouri Small Business of the Year award to Shatto Milk Company, resulting in a very famous photo.

"We got a call from the White House, and we thought it was a joke," Shatto said. "We didn't believe it when they said

they were sending us a package in the mail, but sure enough, one came. They sent a photo of former President George W. Bush in the oval office drinking a bottle of Shatto milk."



The photo is now on display in the Country Store at the family farm. Shatto Milk Company isn't losing momentum. Shatto recently started selling ice cream, and the company is working with an international cheese maker to create Shatto Milk Company cheeses

While running the family farm is a dream come true, Shatto said that nursing is still her passion. She is currently the Director of Performance and Patient Care Improvement and acting Chief of Radiology at the Kansas City Veterans Affairs Medical Center (KCVAMC). She has been with the KCVAMC since her graduation from Avila. She said that her nursing basics, especially working with people, have served her well with the family farm.

"My nursing education at Avila made me what I am," Shatto said. "Talking to people and caring for people is what I enjoy. Avila taught me that I can overcome obstacles and challenges and never take 'no' for an answer."

Today, Shatto still runs the Country Store along with her husband Leroy. Once a shy introvert, Leroy now leads tours and enjoys public speaking engagements. Their son Matt, who is the assistant city manager of Lenexa, Kan., also helps run the family business. Shatto is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild from Matt and his wife Jill, and is excited to have more Shattos to carry on the family farm. 🐄

To learn more about Shatto Milk Company, visit [www.shattomilk.com](http://www.shattomilk.com).



Leroy and Barbara (Cox) Shatto '75 relax at the Shatto family farm.

## A friend of the heart and soul of Avila

Throughout Avila's history, many faculty and staff members have committed themselves to the service of students and the good of the institution. One of these special people is S. Rita Flaherty. She is a sweet and humble example of the excellence of work and relationship with others that makes Avila a second home for so many students.

S. Rita Flaherty received her education at St. Teresa's Academy and the College of St. Teresa, making her an alumna of what would become Avila College and later Avila University. She taught mathematics at Avila between 1968 and 1986, including calculus, concepts of modern math and metrology. All of her classes took place in O'Reilly Hall, the only classroom building on campus at the time she began teaching. She felt she had a great advantage in getting to know the students through eating meals in the same dining area, worshipping together and knowing them through class.

S. Rita truly valued the relationships she had with the other Sisters of St. Joseph she lived with and taught with and marveled at their different talents. She is especially grateful for their assistance before she learned how to drive and their unwavering support after the death of both of her parents.

After leaving Avila, S. Rita went to work at St. Joseph's Hospital in the records and business office. In 1994, she moved to Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis and became the Hospitality Coordinator. Nazareth is the retirement center for the Sisters of St. Joseph as well as other non-religious. As the Hospitality Coordinator, S. Rita was able to welcome many of her old colleagues from Avila as they made the transition to Nazareth through community get-acquainted parties, helping them get settled in their rooms and taking them to dinner in the dining room. In her time at Nazareth, she also was there to see the final transition



S. Rita Flaherty's commitment to Avila is long standing, from her graduation from the College of St. Teresa to her many years of teaching mathematics at Avila.

of many of the sisters to their true home in heaven. In 2006, S. Rita became a resident of Nazareth herself.

If she could give advice to our current students, she would encourage them to open their hearts to God and truly listen to him about their mission in life: mental, spiritual and physical. She hopes that students wouldn't just choose jobs which pay well, but would use the best that is within them to serve and help others. As one who has served well every organization she has been a part of, including Avila, this is advice the wise will take to heart. 🙏

S. Ann Dominic Tassone, former Avila mathematics professor and chair of the department of Natural and Allied Health Sciences and Mathematics, S. Rita Flaherty and Avila Board of Trustee member S. Paulette Gladis, Ph.D., share their stories about Avila. This photo was taken at a reception days before S. Ann Dominic passed away.





Patti Lemen discusses a class assignment with fellow students.

## From ABCs to multiple degrees: Patti Lemen beat the odds

**P**atti Lemen sat watching Barney with six-year-old Steven and seven-year-old Kayce. She was singing along with the giant purple dinosaur and learning her ABCs.

Patti was 27 years old and had lost her ability to read. Kayce and Steven were her children.

On July 2, 1994, Patti, of Blue Springs, was returning home from an aerobics class in Sedalia, riding in the passenger seat of her friend's car. When her friend lost control of their vehicle, the car flipped down the highway, causing Patti's head to slam into the concrete. She woke up to paramedics at her side as she was being rushed to the hospital. After being checked-out, Patti was dismissed the same day. She seemed to be fine.

Patti was not fine. That evening, Patti's family found her on the bathroom floor having grand mal seizures.

When she was re-examined at the hospital, Patti learned she had suffered a neck fracture, multiple leg injuries and severe brain damage. She spent the next six months in a rehabilitation hospital and another

six months in a transitional learning center. Her brain injury caused her to lose her memory.

I knew my children," Patti said, "But I couldn't remember anything about them, like their birthdays, favorite food or their age."

For her children Kayce and Steven, living with their mom was like having another sibling. They had to label everything in the house, including rooms. They hid all the medicine bottles so Patti wouldn't get confused and think they were candy. They had to teach her how to get dressed in the morning and how to cook.

"The thing I regret the most is that my kids bore the brunt of the stress," Patti said. "Because of my accident, I stole away their childhood."

The accident injured the cognitive part of her brain, making her forget

the simplest of things like rooms in her house and, most challenging, numbers and letters. It did not, however, hurt her sense of humor.

"It took me seven years to relearn the alphabet," Patti said. "I used to joke that if I ever got pulled over, I could never pass a DUI test. It was the order sequence that I couldn't remember."

After nine years, including three years of Hooked on Phonics, Patti taught herself how to read again, but her future was still unclear. With two kids in high school, Patti said she wanted to show them that education was crucial. She decided to enroll in classes at Blue River Community College.

"I didn't have enough time to be nervous," Patti said with a smile, "until I walked into my first class and the kids all looked like they were 12. They all encouraged me and told me that the fact I was there was accomplishment enough."

Going to class wasn't all that she accomplished. She graduated from Blue River with a 4.0 GPA. From there, she continued her education at the University of Central Missouri, keeping her perfect 4.0 and earning a Bachelor of Science in Psychology.

"After my accident, I realized that I wanted to know what made other people tick," Patti explained about her choice of psychology. "I was treated so differently afterwards. It's not often that a caregiver has been a patient. I was in a wheelchair. I had seizures. I remember not being touched by anyone for an entire day. I felt like something was wrong with me. I just felt like upholstery on a bed."

Her ability to empathize led her to look for an MSOD program. Friend Laura Kennedy showed Patti Avila's program and introduced her to Assistant Dean of the School of Professional Studies Lacey Smith.

"Lacey held on and didn't let go," Patti said. "Lacey believed in me long before I believed in myself, and she's

Patti Lemen prepares for her graduation ceremony with other students.

that way with everyone. I never felt like I had to prove myself, and that's why I chose Avila."

"Patti Lemen. Just the name brings a big smile to your face if you have ever had the pleasure of being in her presence," Smith said. "Most people don't know what Patti has overcome in her life, but they do know there is something special about her. Her energy is contagious, her drive is relentless and her compassion for fellow human beings is unmatched."

Patti began attending MSOD courses while finishing up her bachelor's degree. Patti was completing 19 course hours at UCM, nine course hours at Avila and was working full time.

"I didn't have a choice. It was like a tidal wave – go with it or drown," Patti said. "I love to be busy, and chaos doesn't really bother me. I've had to start over and I don't want to slow down."

Patti is now the project coordinator for Rainbow Options, a day habilitation and day care for adults with disabilities over age 21.

"I love what I do," Patti said. "I love to work with, serve and meet the needs of people. At Rainbow Options, we have a spirit of gentleness; it's all about tenderness. I'm unique because I can empathize with them."

Patti said that her daughter Kayce, now 22, and son Steven, 21, are her motivation. She said that they acted like the parents when she was acting like a child. She said they grew up together.

"My kids are my inspiration," Patti said. "I've worked hard because I want my kids to know that I will always be there for them."

With every day a challenge, Patti said her worst struggle is distinguishing between what she actually

Patti Lemen, joined by her daughter Kayce and son Steven, proudly displays her diploma immediately after graduation.



remembers and what she has been told so many times that she feels like she remembers. She said Kayce and Steven have helped her to fill in the gaps and encouraged her through the process, from learning to read to receiving her master's degree.

"All I know is that if my kids didn't have faith in me, I wouldn't have been able to do any of this." 📖



# Come home to Avila this fall!

**Y**ou'll have an opportunity to tour the newest buildings on campus, visit with your fellow classmates, cheer the Eagle football and soccer teams to victory and catch up on all that is Avila!

For more information, please visit your alumni association on the Web at [www.avila.edu/alumni/homecoming](http://www.avila.edu/alumni/homecoming) or call Susan Randolph at 816-501-3780.

We're looking forward to welcoming you home!




## Alumni Day at the K

**O**n Sunday, July 26, 2009, close to 100 Avila alumni, family and friends enjoyed great weather and explored the newly renovated Kaufmann Stadium before the Kansas City Royals wrangled with the Texas Rangers. Because the tickets included food credit, everyone had the opportunity to either sample some of the stadium's new offerings or stick with the classic hotdog and soda. And although the weather was perfect, the group was prepared since the lower level seats allowed both a great view and plenty of shade. 🍌



# Social or business, we have your alumni network!

**M**ore than 500 alumni and students can't be wrong! They have found a way to stay connected with the University and one another via Facebook by becoming a fan of the Avila University Alumni Association. As a fan, they get updates about things going on at Avila, upcoming events hosted by the Alumni Association and photos of other alumni and students. We also have an alumni group on LinkedIn for those more interested in business networking than social networking. It is easy and free to join both sites. Visit Facebook.com and LinkedIn.com to obtain your own profile or to join the fun if you already have a profile. 



## Class Alumni Partners


Are you wondering how you can take a leadership role in the Alumni Association and stay in touch with your classmates? Haven't you ever wondered where they are and who they have become? As a CLASS ALUMNI PARTNER, you will have the benefits of:

- Being "in the know" about Avila and Avila's events
- Strengthening Avila University and the value of your degree
- Attending special events for Class Alumni Partners only
- Receiving recognition in University publications
- Networking with other alumni

If you would like to become a Class Alumni Partner, please contact Susan Randolph at 816.501.3780 or Susan.Randolph@avila.edu.

### Our current Class Alumni Partners are:

Mary Elizabeth (Hessel) Heiman	1947	Betty Ann Booker	1963
Mary Ann (Miller) Hense	1948	Jesdon (Haake) McCowen	1964
Mimi (Turpin) Fasenmyer	1949	Mary Pat Beck	1968
Mrs. Rose M. (Aylward) Ferguson	1950	Carol Jean (Stipetich) DeFeo	1968
Dorothy McKinley	1950	Lucie McCallum Black	1975
Mrs. Mary Anne (Gripka) Flucke	1954	Marian (Kelly) Monnig	1975
Sr. Ann Schorfheide, CSJ	1954	Barbara (Cox) Shatto	1975
Virginia (Kopp) Coppinger	1958	Russ N. Plishaw	1976
Bobbi (Hafner) Courville	1958	Cindy (Cook) Licavoli	1989
JoAnn (Judy) Teahan	1958	Amy (Peterman) Huber	2003
Mary Sue Brancato (nursing only)	1959	Jeremy Lillig	2003
Mary Ellen (O'Keefe) Devine (nursing only)	1959	Johnny Turnage	2007
Connie K. (Kassick) John	1961	Chamene Woods	2008
		Michele L. Watley	2009

We apologize to any Class Alumni Partners who have joined us after the publication deadline. 



## Great Wolf Lodge event makes a splash in its third year

**A**pril 17, 2009, was the date for our annual appointment with water park fun! We had 82 young-at-heart souls join us for our ice cream social, which involved coloring for the kids, prizes for the adults and copious amounts of ice cream for all! Guests purchased room nights at a discounted rate and were able to get into the water park early in the afternoon on Friday and stay through the afternoon on Saturday. Everyone had the opportunity to slip, slide and ride to their heart's content. 🐾



## Record-Breaking graduation

**A**vila University's class of '09 saw a record-breaking number of graduates with 478 graduates, including 262 undergraduate and 216 graduate students. On May 16, Avila's graduation ceremony was held at the Church of the Resurrection, where family and friends joined together to celebrate the success of the '09 class. 🎓

# A stick-to-your-ribs great time!

Spring at Avila University is a great time when graduates launch their careers, faculty and staff look back on the academic year with pride, and we seek to thank our alumni and friends who have been partners in our educational mission. One way we're able to express our gratitude is to gather these friends for a family-style barbecue on campus. Food, fellowship and fun are the hallmarks of this popular event, attended this year by approximately 200 of our Kansas City area alumni and corporate supporters. 🍴



# Lots of thrills and sun at Worlds of Fun

On sultry June 20, 2009, 90 alumni, friends and family joined the Alumni Association for a picnic and a day of thrill ride excitement at Worlds of Fun. Guests shared reviews of the new Prowler wood roller-coaster and tips about the best place to sit on the Mamba. Participants came together for burgers, hot dogs, chicken and ice cold drinks, then enjoyed all the park had to offer. Keep your eyes open for more alumni fun at reasonable prices all year long. 🎢



**'65 Sharon (Calloway) Henry** will celebrate her 30th wedding anniversary this year with husband Glenn. Sharon is currently working at Avila as the Assistant Director of Graduate Education. She received her bachelor of fine arts in theatre from Avila.

**'68 Susan (England) Smith** has five grandchildren; Zoe, Zachary, Carson, Hunter and Ava. She and her husband Paul have been married for 40 years. Susan received her bachelor of arts in English from Avila.

**'80 Chris (Evans) Hand** serves as a ward 3 representative on the Merriam City Council in Merriam, Kan. Chris received her bachelor of science in business administration from Avila University.

**'80 Clarence L. Small** was appointed to the Wyandotte Health Foundation board of directors. The Wyandotte Health Foundation is the only foundation exclusively dedicated to improving the health of Wyandotte County residents. Clarence received his bachelor of social work from Avila.

**'81 Nancy Smith** resides in Fla. with her son Alex. Her daughter Madeline lives close by with Nancy's grandson Connor. Nancy is a brand marketing manager with LexisNexis and enjoys working from her home office. Nancy received her bachelor of fine arts from Avila in theatre.

**'83 Connie (Johnston) Chappelle** is a certified legal nurse consultant, assisting attorneys with medical malpractice cases. She spoke at the annual National Alliance for Certified Legal Nurse Consultants on how to assist attorneys with back and neck pain injury cases.

**'84, '96 Gwendolyn (Hash) Roche** begins her new job as the principal of St. Thomas Catholic School in Philo, Ill. this fall. During the summer, she traveled to Mexico with other Avila graduates. Gwendolyn received her bachelor of arts in communication and her teaching certificate in elementary education from Avila.

**'84 Marty Kolkin** has been hired as the new internal audit manager for the City of Santa Monica, Calif. after a nationwide search. Before joining the City of Santa Monica, Kolkin served as the county auditor for Johnson County, Kan. and was the city auditor for the City of Olathe, Kan. Marty received his bachelor of science in business from Avila.



**'86 Linda Morris Shaffer** joined Avila University as the Chief Marketing and Communications Officer, where she oversees marketing, communications and media relations. Linda and husband Arthur welcomed Victoria Elizabeth to their family in January. Victoria has a doting four-year old brother named Logan. Linda received her bachelor of science in marketing from Avila.

**'89 Angela (Lynas) Metzger** is married to Gary Metzger '89. They have three children, Christina, Alexander and Nicholas. Angela continues to teach part-time at

Avila in the math department. She has been teaching classes at Avila since the summer of 1989. Angela received her bachelor of arts in math from Avila.

**'91 Ken Bruss** will receive a Distinguished Alumni Award from his undergraduate alma mater, The University of Minnesota- Morris. The award honors alumni who have made noteworthy contributions in their professional service or in public service. Ken is the head of technical operations for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals in Kansas City. Ken received his MBA from Avila.

**'95 Derek Feagans** and his wife Heather welcomed son Ryan Lee Feagans on June 2, 2009. Will, age 4, and Finley, age 1, are very excited about their new little brother. Derek received his bachelor of science in communications from Avila.

**'97 Jennifer (McCowen) Green** graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing and has worked as an ICU and ER nurse for St. Luke's Hospital and St. Luke's South. In addition, she works as a PRN for Greater Kansas City Hospice House as a hospice nurse. Her family welcomed Ava Marie Green, their fifth child, on April 15.

**'98 Rebecca (McNearney) Correnti** became a fully licensed professional counselor in November of 2000. She is in private practice in Kansas City, Mo.

**'00 Nikki (Brevig) Taylor** is serving as the executive director of the Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce in Decorah, Iowa. Nikki and her husband Brandon have two sons, Devin and Cai. Nikki received her bachelor of arts in communication from Avila.



**'01, '05 Erika (Goeckeritz) Petzold** married her husband Scott in October, 2007 and welcomed their first child, Wyatt Conner, on January 8, 2009. Erika received her bachelor of science in business administration and her MBA from Avila.

**'02 Melody (Lamb) Brooks** and her husband Paul have two children. Melody works at Children's Mercy Hospital as well as a plastic surgery office. She received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.



**'03 Amy (Peterman) Huber** and husband Stephen welcomed son Grady Robert Huber on April 23, 2009. Grady joins big sisters Sidney and Darcy. Amy received her bachelor of arts in elementary education from Avila.

**'04 Adrianne (Cook) Lane** received her master of technical and occupational education degree from the University of Central Missouri. Adrianne received her bachelor of science in business administration from Avila.



**'04 Mike Strickland** and his wife Kristin celebrated the birth of their first child, Sarah Jean Strickland, on June 2, 2009. Mike received his bachelor of science in business from Avila.

**'06 Patricia (Parks) Ross** is due to complete her master's degree at Webster University this summer. Patricia received her bachelor of arts in psychology from Avila.

# AVILA UNIVERSITY<sup>®</sup>

## A L U M N I A S S O C I A T I O N

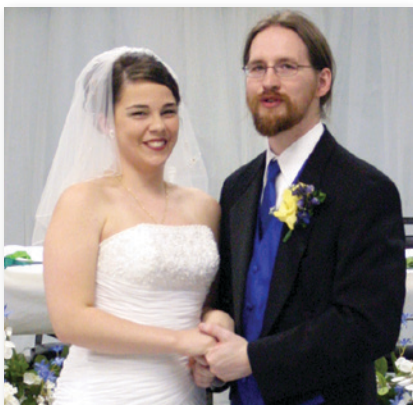
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ News: \_\_\_\_\_



**'08 Stephanie (Lawrence) Sullivan** married Tom Sullivan '06 on March 21, 2009. Both are now graduate student instructors at the University of Missouri-Columbia while pursuing their masters of arts in English. In addition to their studies, Stephanie and Tom taught at an English language camp in South Korea this summer. Stephanie and Tom both received a bachelor of arts in English from Avila.

**'09 Teresa (Diebal) Loden** and Jason Loden '09 were married on May 30, 2009. The couple will begin medical school at the Kirksville School of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Mo. this fall. Teresa and Jason both received a bachelor of science in biology from Avila.

**'09 Melissa (Keller) Hogan** is working in the emergency department at Truman Medical Center. Melissa received her bachelor of science in nursing from Avila.

## Fetsch (continued from p. 6)

Joseph of Carondelet-secured staff experts in the areas of critical care and emergency nursing to teach the courses. An Avila faculty member, hired as project assistant, developed the courses, created the course syllabi, arranged clinical experiences and preceptors in four different institutions, set up an on-line learning environment, oriented students to the course, developed a preceptor handbook and served as a liaison for the staff faculty.

Enrollments have begun in the sub-specialized courses, and another health care agency has been identified as a partner for expanded offerings. Through her leadership and ingenuity, Dr. Fetsch created a new program to benefit Avila students by providing them hands-on, critical-care experiences that will help prepare them for their future nursing careers. 📖



## Alumni at Last Bash a hit!

**T**he first annual Alumni At Last Bash took place on May 13th, 2009. This new celebration for the graduating class drew almost two hundred and fifty of our newest alumni immediately after graduation practice. The class of 2009 received free t-shirts welcoming them to the Avila University Alumni Association, enjoyed some appetizers, and got to socialize with their fellow graduates. Congratulations to our newest Alumni! We hope to see you all at Eagle Days, Avila's Homecoming. 📖

**'39** Mary Jane (Sanders) Meyer passed away on June 7, 2009. Mary Jane received her associate of arts from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'50** Aileen Elizabeth Shine passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2009. Aileen received her bachelor of arts in English from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'57** Sylvia M. (Kiefer) Bowles passed away on March 28, 2008. Sylvia received her nursing diploma from the College of St. Teresa, now Avila University.

**'70** Henrietta Louise Halbhuber passed away on May 17, 2009. Henrietta received her bachelor of science in elementary education from Avila.

**LaTanya Walker** passed away in July 2008. LaTanya attended Avila.

**Ruth May Hulse** passed away on April 4, 2009. She served the College of St. Teresa as an instructor in the nursing program.

**John Joseph (Jack) Kitchin** passed away on February 16, 2009. He was a past president of Avila University's Board of Counselors and served on the Board of Trustees. He also received the Honorary Alumni Award from the University for his many years of service.



## Avila remembers Emerita Professor S. Ann Dominic Tassone

**A**vila University is mournful to share the passing of **Sister Ann Dominic Tassone** of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. S. Ann Dominic passed away on Monday, June 29.

S. Ann Dominic began her 35-year career at Avila in 1963 at the then Avila College. S. Ann Dominic taught mathematics and was the chair of the department of Natural and Allied Health Sciences and Mathematics. Eventually she became a volunteer for the Avila Advantage program, but her students remember her most for her Avila spirit.

S. Ann Dominic tried to attend every home sporting event, especially basketball. Alongside friend, S. Rose Anthony Schmidt, the two would always sit at center court, second row from the floor.

S. Ann Dominic once told reporters, "I'd say something like, 'Dear Lord, let us win and I won't eat cake for a week.' Isn't that awful? I don't do that anymore. I just leave it in His hands."

When not praying, S. Ann Dominic was known for her verbal encouragement of the referees, coaches and athletes. She wouldn't miss a game. While on her way to a basketball game during icy weather, S. Ann Dominic slipped and broke her wrist but went to the game anyway. The team's trainer took her to the hospital after the game.

In recent years, S. Ann Dominic retired to the Nazareth Living Center in St. Louis, a Catholic nursing and assisted living community sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. She never wavered in her support for Avila and readily shared stories about the old days and the cheese sandwiches they had to eat for lunch.

Her spirit and dedication earned her a place in the Avila University Athletic Hall of Fame. S. Ann Dominic also received the first ever Avila Upsilon Alpha Chapter's Honor an Educator Award, Avila's Medal of Honor, the rank of professor emerita and had Avila University's Mascot, Dom the Eagle, named in her honor.

S. Ann Dominic – we will miss you. 🕊

# *in memoriam*

## Anthony Hall named Avila University athletic director

**A**fter an extensive search, Avila University recently named Anthony Hall, Sr., the new Director of Athletics and Recreation.

Hall, men's basketball coach, was named athletic director after serving as the interim athletic director for eight months. Hall has been a member of the Avila family since 1999, initially as a residence hall advisor and assistant basketball coach.

Avila University President Ron Slepitzka, Ph.D., said that Hall demonstrates a passion and ability to effectively manage the athletic director role and to do so with a primary concern for the well-being of the student athletes and their full development.

"Anthony Hall has excelled as a coach and as an interim athletic director," Slepitzka said. "Anthony is deeply committed to our mission as a Catholic university sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, and through that develops individuals whose character, competence and compassion distinguish them as leaders in the community."

"I'm excited about the opportunity to lead Avila's athletic department," said Hall. "Having been a part of the Avila community for the past ten years, I have seen many students achieve great things both on and off the court. As I grow Avila's athletic department, I am committed to providing



personalized attention to our athletes to help them grow both personally and professionally."

With more than 16 years of combined coaching experience, Hall came to Avila after spending two seasons at The State University of West Georgia. While Hall was an assistant at West Georgia, the team won the east division of the conference and competed in the NCAA Division II national tournament both seasons. Before coaching, Hall played college basketball at Southeast Missouri State University, with his team being inducted in the Southeast Missouri State University Sports Hall of Fame.

As the athletic director for Avila University, Hall will be responsible for ensuring competitive success, rule compliance, fiscal accountability and student athlete academic success. Hall will lead the athletics and recreation department, including baseball, men's and women's basketball, cheerleading, dance, football, golf, men's and women's soccer, softball, volleyball and student intramural programs. Hall also will continue as the men's basketball coach for a period of time to ensure that Avila makes a smooth transition for the team.

"Anthony's integrity and dedication to Avila and its students are unquestioned, and he brings a strong vision and a real energy and desire to move our programs to a higher level," said Vice President for Enrollment and Student Development Ned Harris, Ph.D. "I have enjoyed working with Anthony in his role as interim athletic director and men's basketball coach and look forward to further developing our relationship on behalf of Avila and our students."

Hall currently resides in Grandview, Mo., with wife Tracy, and children Taylor, T.J. and Trevor. 🐦

## A new Dom has hatched!

**D**om the Eagle, named after Avila professor emerita S. Ann Dominic, has a new look! Check out Dom's new costume at future Avila Eagles sporting events. 🐦



## Avila defeats Doane College in 3rd annual First Down Classic

The Avila Eagles football team emerged victorious on Aug. 29 when they defeated defending champion Doane College in the pre-season First Down Classic. Held at Platte County High School's Pirate Stadium in Platte City, Mo., the First Down Classic was presented by College Fanz Sports Network.

Avila head coach Bruce Young, entering his fifth season leading the Eagles, is no stranger to pre-season games. He has coached in the NAIA's Wheat Bowl several times while at Avila and Baker University. "This was a great opportunity for our program and for the conference to gain more recognition nationally. It was also a wonderful opportunity for our players and fan base to experience a playoff-like atmosphere," said Young.

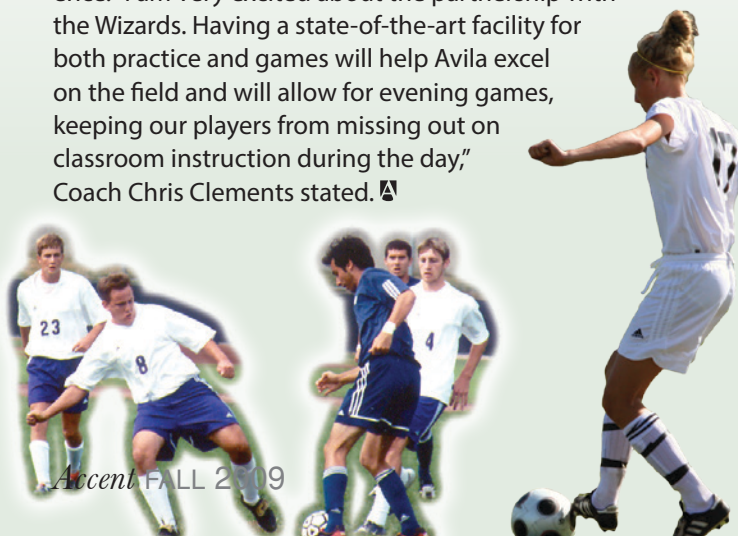
Over 1,500 fans were in attendance for the third annual gridiron contest, which was also the season premiere for the College Fanz NAIA Football Game of the Week. 🏈



## Avila University soccer and the Kansas City Wizards team up

The Kansas City Wizards and Avila University men's and women's soccer programs are proud to announce a new partnership for the 2009-2010 school year. The partnership will allow Avila to utilize the Wizards' practice facility, located in Swope Park, for games and practices.

The Kansas City Wizards' practice facility is a soccer-dedicated synthetic field with lights and will allow Avila to have access to the best soccer facilities in the conference. "I am very excited about the partnership with the Wizards. Having a state-of-the-art facility for both practice and games will help Avila excel on the field and will allow for evening games, keeping our players from missing out on classroom instruction during the day," Coach Chris Clements stated. 🏈



## Catch Your Eagles Online!

Check out all the action both on and off the field at [www.avila.edu/athletics](http://www.avila.edu/athletics)! This is the place to go for scoreboard information, rosters, Eagles gear, and more!





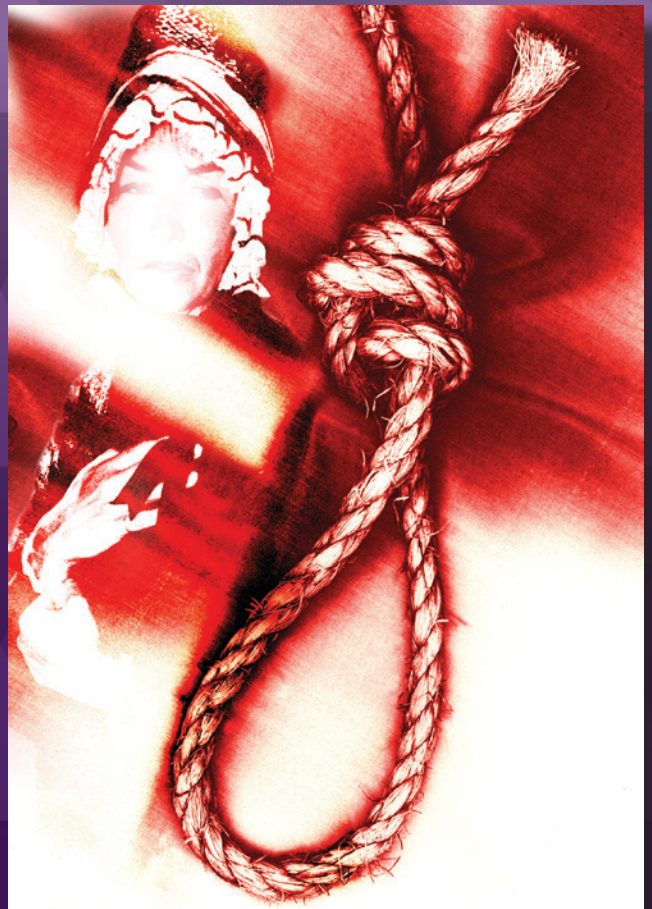
## THE FOREIGNER

by Larry Shue

October 1-4

Join us for a spot of high tea and snort of moonshine! Set in a fishing lodge deep in rural Georgia, Shue's comical farce reveals that for one hapless stranger, there's more pit than peach in the heart of Dixie. Charlie, a speechlessly shy Englishman on holiday, quickly gets buried up to his bowler hat among the swindlers, schemers and scalawags waging mayhem in this backwoods town.

Dinner Theatre precedes the Oct. 3rd and 4th performances. Please call 816-501-3699 for reservations.



## THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller

November 19-22

Fueled by the fear and fury of ideological zealotry, Miller's award-winning play is a timely exploration of nonconformity's deadly fate in a rigidly dogmatic society. Witness the struggle one man faces when he is forced to cry out against the unyielding division between conscience and conviction.

# *Avila Heritage Society*

**F**red Geer, Ph.D., professor of Education and Psychology, has been a fixture at Avila for nearly 35 years. So it was no surprise when he and his wife Pam wanted to do something special to help Avila's students. During the recent campaign, the Geers established a permanently endowed scholarship to benefit deserving students majoring in Special Education or Education. They also have committed a percentage of their estate to support Avila.

"I have seen so many wonderful students graduate from Avila and make a real difference in the community and in the classrooms. With Pam's background in fundraising, we know what a difference an endowed scholarship can make in a student's ability to succeed, and we are fortunate enough to be able to give back to something so special," Fred stated.

In addition to serving as a full-time professor in the School of Education, Fred also serves as the faculty athletic representative for Avila in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. He teaches a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses and serves as the academic advisor for special education majors. He has won the Avila Medal of Honor, and the Alumni Association recently named him an Honorary Alumni. Pam currently serves as the associate executive director of the Saint Luke's Hospital Foundation and is a strong presence at Avila functions on campus and in the community.

## **Building the Future**

**Fred and Pam Geer**

## **Securing Avila's Heritage**

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Creating an endowed scholarship to benefit future generations of Avila students is just one way you can join the Heritage Society.

To find out more about Avila's Heritage Society, please contact Jessie Fuller, senior director of advancement, at 816.501.3613.

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*Avila Homecoming*

**EAGLE DAYS**  
**2009**

**OCTOBER 2, 3 & 4**



**UNDER THE**  
**BIG TOP**